

# The Pittsylvania Packet

Fall 1995



No. 18  
Pittsylvania Historical Society  
Chatham, Virginia



## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Much of your President's time and concentration since August 1 have been spent in response to an offer of trusteeship of some privately owned historic county property to the Society. Whereas we are not at liberty to divulge the specifics, there were considerations that rendered it prudent to appoint a committee to study the options carefully and to obtain legal advice. Your Officers and Directors have been kept fully apprised of our actions. You are entitled to know that absolutely no financial windfall to the Society is forthcoming in any case.

A Society committee concerned with the condition of the county's historic buildings met at length with Pittsylvania County officials in September. Society Director Norman Amos has toured some of the sites with the officials and a contractor since the meeting. He reports that prospects for improvement in this area are heartening.

Herman Melton

## THE AUGUST MEETING

Perhaps the largest crowd ever to attend a regular Society meeting turned out for what was called "Favorite Son Night" at the pavilion in the Chatham Town Park behind the 1813 Clerk's Office. Society member, Carlton White, a University of Virginia Law School classmate and lifetime friend, introduced the speaker, Hugh McCormick, to the 150-200 in attendance. This Pittsylvania County native son and WWII veteran is a retired Front Royal attorney, a descendant of three Confederates in Picketts Charge at Gettysburg and author of the widely acclaimed book: Confederate Son. Mr. McCormick reviewed his book, described his interesting lifetime experiences briefly and recalled incidents from his years growing up on a family farm near Java in the county. He was kept busy autographing copies of his book before and after the program for the scores of people who purchased them. The author graciously donated profits from the local sale of the book to the Society and the remainder to Shenandoah University where he has endowed a chair in the study of Civil War history. The Society appreciates this generosity and compliments Hugh on presenting one of its best received programs in some time.

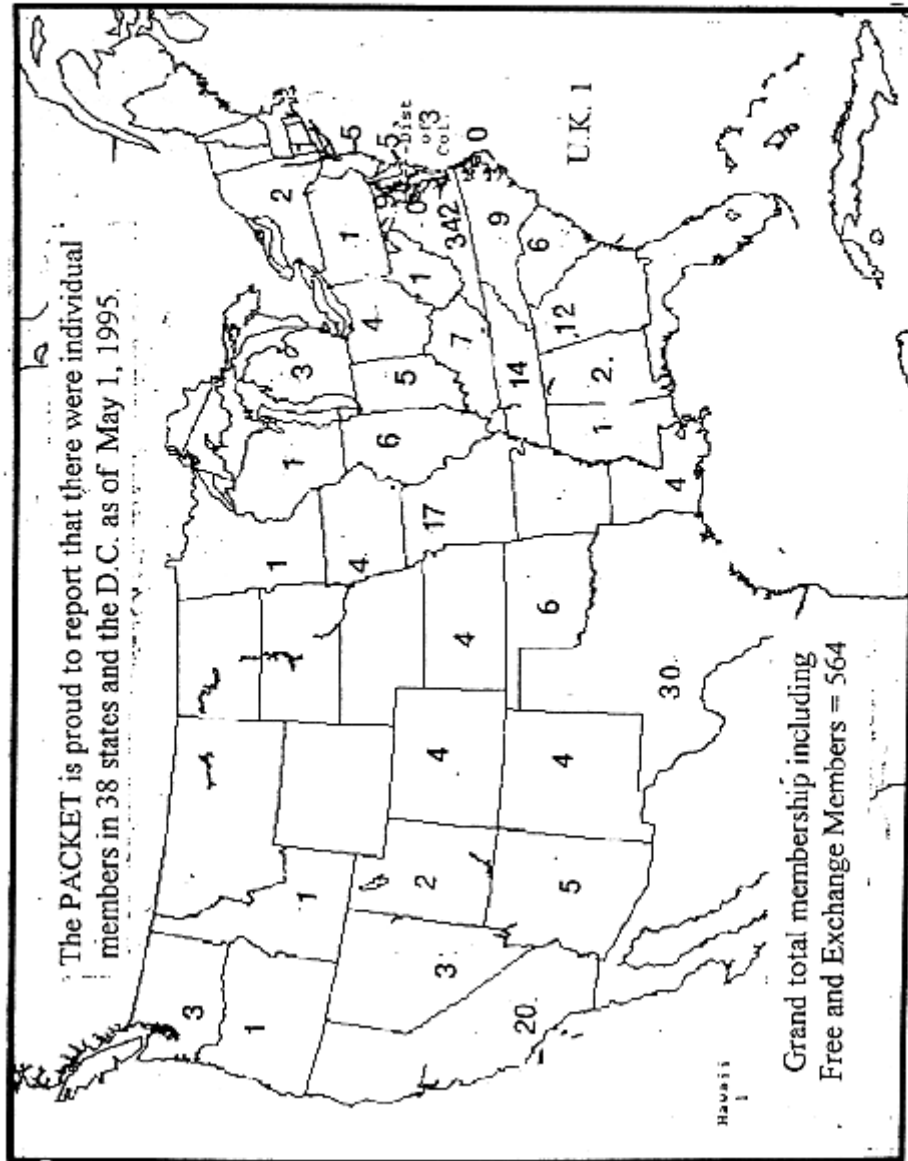
## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR YOUR BEST DAY EVER

**CHRISTMAS IN COLONIAL CHATHAM - SAT. DEC. 2nd** from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Home tours, Arts, Crafts, Costumed Natives, Historical Reenactments at County Courthouse, Free Ham Biscuits and Peanuts, Lantern Lighting Ceremony, "The Gift of the Magi" at Hargrave.

# WHERE OUR MEMBERS LIVE

To the left is a map of the U.S. showing the number of the number of Pennsylvania Historical Society Members in each state. They are very impressive. Incidentally, these figures are only slightly out of date. They were compiled by our own Memb. Secy., Jeanette Brown and former PACKET Editor, Preston Moses. Our thanks to them!

HEM



# Chatham's First Automobile Run Off Main Street By Judge

By Preston Moses

The first automobile that was brought into Chatham was pulled into town by a team of horses after its motor failed.

When it was gotten into operation, the town's first car was run off Main Street by order of the Circuit Court Judge Tredway.

J. Pride Hunt, son of J.P. Hunt Sr., wealthy Chatham groceryman, was the first person in Chatham to own one of the new automobiles.

Pride had gotten a degree in mechanical engineering from VPI in 1902. But his father wanted him to learn the grocery business and eventually take over the store.

Pride was working at the trade when he read all about the new horseless carriages that were called "automobiles."

Pride saw an advertisement that told the Gravely Bros. Insurance Company of Danville had gotten the agency to sell automobiles - which were creating a sensation among the elite of the eastern states of the USA.

Pride Hunt and his younger brother, Russell, begged their father to advance the money to buy one of these new contraptions.

It was in the late summer of 1903 that the father finally agreed to put up \$375 (the equivalent of \$22,000) today) to purchase a "Waltham Orient Buckboard" being sold in Danville, manufactured by Waltham Manufacturing Company of Waltham, Mass.

The Buckboard was a very simple car, consisting of a buggy seat mounted to a wooden platform with a 4HP air-condition gasoline engine in the back, geared to the rear axle with only one speed up to 10 mph. It weighed 350 pounds with tiller steering and hand brakes.

Pride and Russell took the train to Danville early Saturday morning to buy the automobile from Gravely Brothers Ins. Co.

They were thrilled to be buying the car and envisioned the excitement it would cause when they came driving into town!

Pride was steering the automobile back to Chatham. About two miles out of Danville they came to Falls Creek. There was no bridge and were "fording" the creek when the water drowned out the little motor on the vehicle.

Trying all they knew, the brothers couldn't get the engine cranked. It was agreed that Pride would stay with the car, and Russell would walk to nearby Blairs RR Station; catch the train back to Chatham and get horses from Whitehead Livery Stable, come back and pull the car to Chatham.

Rather ingloriously, Pride and Russell came into Chatham Saturday night (after dark) with horses pulling their new auto. They pushed it on to the elevator and took it to the second floor of Hunt Grocery Store.



The brothers could hardly wait to get to work on the car the next morning. However, it being Sunday, their mother put her foot down - telling them they would have to first go to church and eat their dinner "before you go to work on that thing -- whatever it is!"

The boys spent all of Sunday afternoon working on the automobile. Actually, they almost took the engine apart before they finally got it running.

They brought the car out on the back street the next morning. It was the "first Monday" which meant it was "court day" and a big crowd was in Chatham.

Pride and Russell got the "Waltham Orient Buckboard" cranked up. With Pride steering, they proudly took off riding up and down Main Street.

People rushed out of the stores, and crowds lined the street to gape in amazement at the thing that looked a lot like a buggy, chugging along without a horse.

Pride and Russell were enjoying the attention they were getting -- as they drove down Main Street seven or eight times. The dirt street was bone dry, and the car left a cloud of dust behind as it sped along at 10 mph.

The automobile had no muffler and the engine made a loud pop-pop, bang-bang noise that especially frightened the ladies and horses on the street.

A man driving a horse and wagon saw his animal was frightened and jumped out to hold the bridle of the horse when the auto passed.

The courthouse was soon about emptied when people rushed out to see what all the commotion was about. Judge Tredway finally directed the sheriff to "go tell those Hunt boys to take that contraption off Main Street; they are disrupting the court."

Being ordered to take the car off Main Street didn't phase Pride...he drove the car every chance he had to show it off to the crowd that gathered around to see Chatham's first automobile.

As the first auto owner here, Pride Hunt was inspired to go into the automobile business. Several years later he opened Hunt's Garage on Chatham Main Street (where later was Whitehead's Hardware), and he became a dealer here for the Reo and Dodge cars.

Like father, like son! Pride's son Jack Hunt inherited his father's love of automobiles. Jack bought out Rex Motor Company in 1955 and developed it as Hunt Chevrolet which became such a large business that it was necessary to build a new facility south of Chatham on Route 29.

Jack owned and operated Hunt Chevrolet for 26 years before selling and retiring in 1981.

Memories of Chatham's first automobile came flooding back many years later. Russell Hunt retired as an executive with VEPCO. He was ransacking upstairs over the old Hunt's Grocery store when he came across a headlight that came off that first Chatham auto.

Being an entrepreneur, Russell advertised it in the Vintage automobile magazine. He got a ready sale for the antique that fitted on the 1903 "Waltham Orient Buckboard."

Editor's Note: The PACKET expresses appreciation to its former Editor Preston Moses for the above which is excerpted from an article by him that appeared recently in the Chatham Star- Tribune. Send us more, Preston.



# Pittsylvania Remembrances

By Frances E. Parker

## Visiting Pittsylvania County, Virginia

In the 1993 volume of *The Packet* there was an article on Thomas Jones the Revolutionary Soldier. He was my Revolutionary ancestor so I got in touch with Marion Williamson to get more information. We decided that when I got there for my summer trip she and her husband would take me to the points of interest. Thomas has four children and one, Emanuel, was my great-great grandfather.

I had known from 1944 that they lived at Mountain Top. Some how when I was there I got mixed up with all the Thomases and thought the home on 703 "Tightsqueeze" was the home of Thomas Sr. but it was Mountain View, the home of Thomas Jr. It has been in the news lately with the chemical company building a factory across the road.

Thomas Sr. lived on 899 at Mountain Top, and it was inherited by Emanuel. Emanuel's daughter Susan married William Wilkinson and their daughter, Martha, married Pleasant Bedford Farmer, and they became my grandparents.

It was such a thrill to finally visit the ground that belonged to my ancestors. I have been working on my Farmer ancestors since 1944 and got that much information from my mother. If I had known the right questions to ask her, I could have gotten a lot more. That is the problem, so many of us have when we first start. The ones who could have answered - some of them pass on before we think of the questions.

Emanuel's home is no longer standing, but the cemetery is still there with a rock wall around it and lots of tombstones. Many of them can still be read. Emanuel's is one of them. That is the picture included.

After that thrill I attended the McCormick reunion in Mt. Airy. There I met many more relatives. Louise Farmer married William Logan McCormick. They had twelve children and the youngest, and only survivor, is now 92-years-young.

Hugh McCormick has been an attorney for many years in Front Royal. He has attended most of the events held in connection with Pickett's Charge. He had three relatives in the Charge. Grandfather, Abner T. Farmer, father, William Logan McCormick and his father's brother. They all came home safely, but Abner was killed at a sawmill explosion at Paytonsbury a few years after getting home.

Abner was married twice. His first wife, Louisa Edmunds, died soon after Louise was born. Then he married Kajiah Edmunds, Louisa's sister, and they had a son, Abner J.E. Abner T. died before his son was born. Later Kajiah married William McCormick, they had three children and after she died, William married Louise Farmer.

Their descendants hold a reunion at the St. Andrews Methodist Church in Mt. Airy on third Saturday every July. That was the old family church. It is open to anyone that may be interested. It is a covered dish luncheon at 1 p.m.

### Editor's Note:

This is only the second of Pittsylvania Remembrances. Guest writer for this issue is from Rosemead, CA but has deep roots in Pitts. Co.

### To All Readers:

Let us have your favorite Pittsylvania Remembrance. Submit it via Box 1148, Chatham, VA 24531.



HOWARD WILLIAMSON is shown viewing the grave marker in the old THOMAS JONES SR. and EMANUEL JONES Cemetery on Pittsylvania County Route 899.

### *LOOK FOR THE ASTERICK \**

An asterick (\*) beside your mailing address means that your membership to the PHS has EXPIRED. This also means that this is your final copy of The Packet if you don't renew.

We don't want to lose you, and we definitely want you to renew your membership to the PHS.

Please send \$10 to renew your membership to Mrs. Jeannette Brown, PHS Membership Secretary, Rt. 1, Box 8K6, Chatham, VA 24531.

### **MISCELLANY:**

**Family histories:** The Pittsylvania County Library can now serve as a repository for your family histories. Please send to the Society for handling and recording. Ideally, the maximum thickness of the manuscript should be about two inches per family. **County Historic Buildings:** The county has replaced the defective door on the 1767 Clerk's Office (under custody of the Chatham Garden Club) with a remarkably well done replacement. Kudos to Assistant County Administrator Otis Hawker and Society Director Norman Amos.

# Never Give Up

By Lucille Payne

If you have ever thought about giving up when you couldn't find a lost ancestor, consider the story of PHS member, Gordon Adams.

Back in 1935 Gordon began his genealogical research and quickly located his gr-gr-grandfather, Samuel Adams (born 1800). He had solid proof that Samuel was his ancestor, but who were the parents of Samuel? Through the years he contacted other persons researching the Adams surname, used advertisements in genealogical quarterlies and hired professional researchers -- but sixty years later he still did not know who Samuel's parents were!

Rewards, beginning with one for \$50 and increasing to \$500, produced no results. Then in 1993 he offered \$1,000 for the first proof of one or both parents of Samuel Adams. Still no results.

In 1995 fate, and a man from North Carolina, stepped in. The man bought an old trunk at a flea market in Hillsville, Virginia, and inside the trunk were two old Bibles and some court records.

One Bible, dated 1846, had belonged to Samuel Adams. The entries identified the parents of Samuel as Joseph Samuel Adams, (born 1762), and Elizabeth Seagraves (born 1773).

Joseph and Elizabeth had married in Botetourt County, Virginia in August 1792, with her father, Samuel Seagraves as consent and surety.

Joseph died 1810 in Missouri Territory. Elizabeth died in 1811 in Pittsylvania Co. Their son Samuel, gr-gr-grandfather of Gordon, was then taken in and raised by Wilson Vaden.

The second Bible (dated 1871) had belonged to Samuel's daughter, Mary Reeves Adams, and she repeats much of the data from the Samuel Adams Bible. Mary married Robert Wilson Vaden, grandson of Wilson Vaden, who raised Samuel.

Joseph Samuel Adams, Sr. born 1762, died 1810, married 14 Aug. 1792, Elizabeth Seagraves in Botetourt Co., VA. The had:

1. William Adams, born 1793, died 1817, Pittsylvania Co., Va.
2. Mary E. Adams, born 1794, died 1810, Missouri Territory.
3. John Adams, born 1796, died 1810, Missouri Territory.
4. Joseph Samuel Adams Jr. born and died 1798, Botetourt Co., VA.
5. Samuel Adams, born 1800, died 1892, married Tamson Ann Dix.
6. Ellen Ann Adams, born 1802, died 1810, Missouri Territory.

Samuel Adams, born 1800, married Tamson Ann Dix, born 1805 and had:

1. William Wilson Adams, born 1827.
2. Mary Dix Adams, born 1830 (twin), died 1830.
3. Mary Reeves Adams, born 1830 (twin), married Robert Wilson Vaden.
4. Tamson Ann Adams, born 1832, married Morgan Irby Jr., Halifax Co., VA.

5. Samuel Chaplin Adams, born 1834, died 1835.

Gordon wishes to thank all the people who have assisted him over the years and wants it known that the reward has now been paid.



He says, "Don't ever give up on your genealogical problem; there is always a piece of paper somewhere to solve it."

For further information, contact Lt. Col. Gordon S. Adams (USAF Ret.), 1256 Balboa Ct. #4, Sunnyvale, CA 94085.

**Editor's Note:** *The Packet* welcomes this contribution from our own Lucille Payne, former Society President, former co-editor of *The Quill Pen* and the author of three books on Pittsylvania County History. We look forward to more from this versatile Pittsylvanian.

### PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY WPA WRITER'S PROJECT MAY RETURN

The remarkable "Historical Inventory" performed by Pittsylvania's amateur historians in the nationwide WPA Writers Project during the Great Depression is about to return in the form of a microfilm reel from records in the National Archives. Society Member, Helen Melton has reviewed the contents briefly, located the supplier and reports that it should soon become a fine addition to county historical records. Your Board approved a contribution of one-third of the cost; one-third has been raised from private sources and one-third has been requested of the Pittsylvania County Library. To refresh your memory, this was one of the projects of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal in which he put thousands of unemployed historians and writers to work researching history (plus some genealogy) in most of the counties in the nation. There has been a belated recognition of the value of this project to local history in various localities. Books and articles, as products of this program, are now appearing.

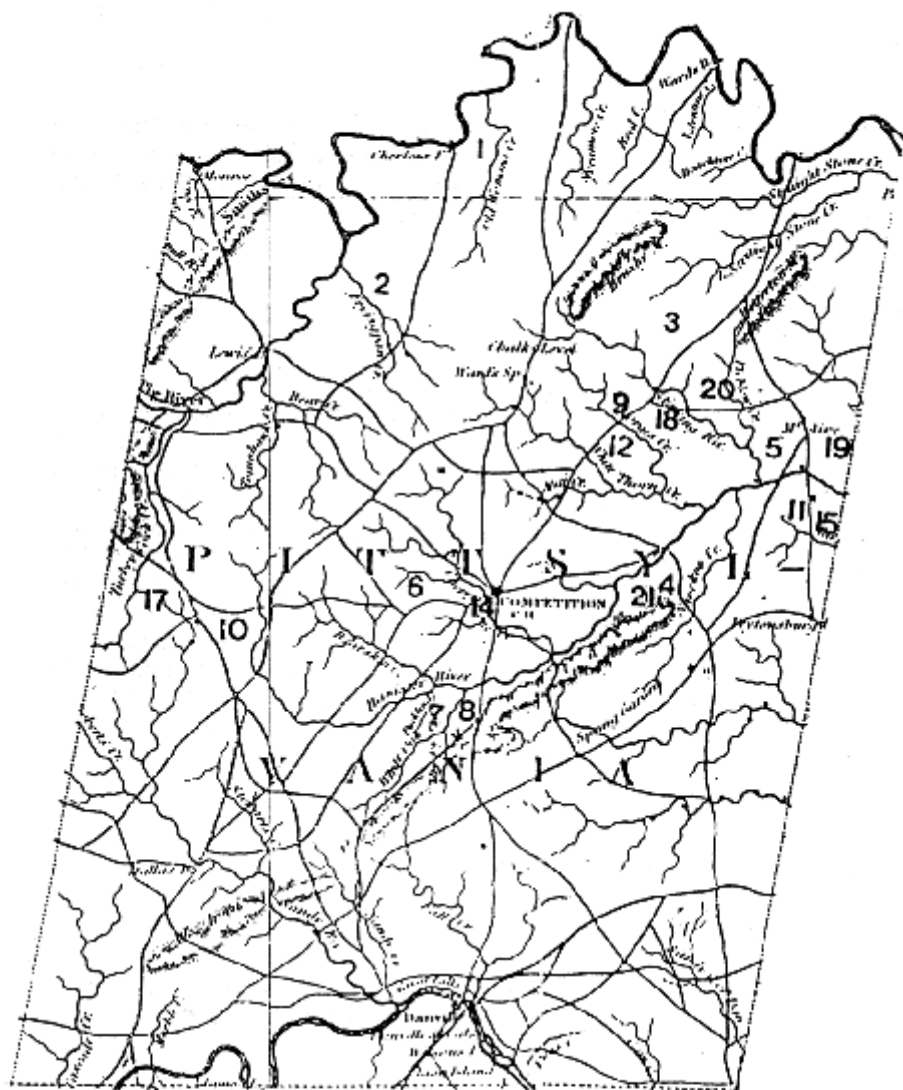
### THE PACKET LATEST KUDOS GO TO:

Mack Doss for the most successful Callands Potpourri ever on October 7. It appears that there were record crowds, record receipts and record weather.

Henry Mitchell, Preston Moses, Norman Reynolds and Dave Clark for a highly successful and well received historical reenactment at the old Callands Courthouse at noon that day.

Susan Worley, Kitty Turner, Alice Overbey and Helen Melton for a record setting sale of Historical Society books at the Potpourri. The Society needed over \$800 from this effort.

Assistant County Administrator Otis Hawker and Society Director Norman Amos for getting the defective door replaced in the Callands 1767 Clerk's Office.



### OLD PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY MAP SHOWING GRAVE SITES OF REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS

Numbers representing the locations of the graves of the county's Revolutionary War soldiers have been superimposed on this 1827 county map. The map is inaccurate by today's standards, and the sites of many of the graves are only approximate but show the general location. The Packet prints this chiefly for the benefit of out of county members of the Society who lack knowledge of county geography, but are descendants of the heroes.

# Pittsylvania's Hallowed Ground



## KNOWN LOCATIONS OF THE GRAVES OF REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS

Grave No.	Name	General Location
1	Robert Adams	Brights Community
2	Jacob Berger	Near Siloam Church (Toshes)
3	Griffith Dickenson	Chalk Level (near Meadowwood)
4	Edmond Fitzgerald	Shockoe
5	Joshua Stone	Hermosa (near Mt. Airy)
6	Thomas Carter	Between Concord and Weal
7	Moses Hutchings	2 Mi. West of Dry Fork P.O.
8	Edward Robertson	Dry Fork
9	William Witcher	West of Sandy Level P.O.
10	James Mitchell	1 Mi. East of Callands P.O.
11	Daniel Coleman	Between Java and Riceville
12	Issac Coles	Chalk Level (Riddle Farm)
13	Thomas Jones	Not Definite
14	Burwell Vaden	Chatham Cemetery
15	Stephen Coleman	Beside Daniel Coleman
16	Samuel Callands	N.W. of Callands
17	Avery Mustein	Between Gretna and Mt. Airy
18	John Wilson (grave not marked)	Dan's Hill, W. of Danville
19	John Buckley	3 1/2 Mi. E. of Mt. Airy
20	David Hunt	Moorefield Dairy Farm (Renan)
21	John Weatherford (not a soldier)	Shockoe Baptist Church

*The above list was taken from a brochure prepared by the Daughters of the American Revolution during the Bicentennial in 1976.*

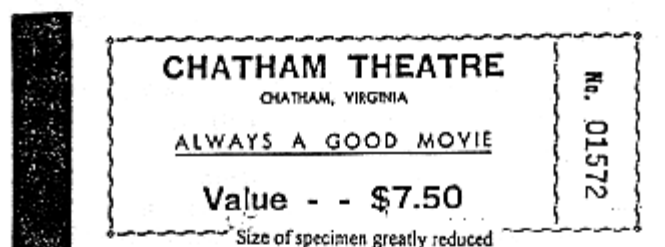
See matching numbers to the above on map at left

### Editor's Note:

Any reader with knowledge of county grave sites of other Revolutionary War soldiers is urged to notify *The Packet*.

### HOW LONG SINCE YOU TOOK IN A 75 CENT MOVIE?

This book of ten admission tickets to the old Chatham Theater sold for \$7.50. This item was purchased recently at the Altavista Flea Market for 25 cents. When did it cost \$7.50? Write or call the Editor of *The Packet* if you know the answer.



### THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Program Chairperson Frances Hurt is pulling out all stops to display the Society owned Booker Stone coverlets at the 1813 Clerk's Office at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 20. These exquisite fabrics were the handiwork of the Isave Booker, the most talented weaver Pittsylvania County ever produced. Booker was freed in the antebellum era to make use of his inordinate talent on the Stone Plantation, "Shady Grove," near Sheva in Pittsylvania County. The coverlets were donated to the Society several years ago by a Stone descendant, Mrs. Jane Nowlin McClellan of Alexandria. *The Packet* is pleased to report that Mrs. McClellan also will be present at the meeting.

The Society is fortunate in having the Hon. Linwood Wright, Vice-Mayor of Danville and Vice-President of Dan River Inc. available as the guest speaker for the occasion since he is qualified to discuss the importance and characteristics of the coverlets from the standpoint of a textile expert. Moreover, Mr. Wright is deeply interested in history and serves on the Board of Directors of the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History. As a civic leader, he serves in a guiding capacity in several other local organizations. As a learned citizen, he is much in demand for such occasions as this.

This program promises to be outstanding, and all members are urged to attend. Mrs. Hurt passes on word to *The Packet* that you will be glad you did.



FIRST PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY COURT ORDER,  
PROPOSING A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF  
THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FRANKLIN,  
PITTSYLVANIA AND BOTETOURT TURNPIKE.

Reproduction of the original Pittsylvania County Court Order authorizing the formation of a committee to work with a similar committee from Franklin County in the study of the "best, most convenient route for a road from the Town of Danville to the Washington Iron Works at Rocky Mount." The appointees were James M. Williams, William Walton and William Swanson. The date was June of 1824. Despite the critical need for the road, it would be fifteen years before its opening. For more than 150 years this road has been known to county citizens as: THE FRANKLIN TURNPIKE.

*Superscribed Order*  
The Petition of William Walton, John M. Williams, William Swanson and others who filed their petition praying that three or more may be appointed to view and report to this Court the most eligible route for a road from the Town of Danville to the Iron Works at Rocky Mount in the County of Franklin and to unite this road with certain views appointed by the County Court of Franklin at the same term of said Court. The Court in consideration of the Petition and order of Franklin County Court of said date is ordered that James M. Williams, William Walton and William Swanson Esqrs. do view and report the most eligible route for a road leading from the Town of Danville to the Iron Works aforesaid after as the borders of Franklin County and that they will themselves of the aid of the view from Franklin County in establishing the said route and report to this Court the advantages to the public as well as the convenience and injury to individuals as soon as may be.

# The Franklin Turnpike

By Herman Melton

The June term of the Pittsylvania County Court was in progress on the 21st in 1824 with "Gentlemen Justices" Daniel Coleman, Col. Nathaniel Wilson, William Shelton and James Soyers presiding. Coleman was a former member of the Virginia General Assembly, and Wilson was a member of the Board of Directors of the Roanoke Navigation Co.

Few people viewing the procedure, including the Justices themselves, could have recognized the historical importance of the petition about to be presented by a prominent, enormously wealthy Pittsylvania citizen who was also a former member of the Virginia House of Delegates.

Walter Coles was the son of Col. Isaac Coles, a Revolutionary War soldier, who represented Pittsylvania County in the First U.S. Congress in 1789. Walter inherited his family's politically progressive nature and recognized the importance of the role of transportation in the economic development of the county.

With the exception of a few arteries such as the Halifax Road, the Hickey Road, Ward's Road, Henry Road, Chalk Level Road, etc., most county roads were little more than aborigine trails.

After the War of 1812, the phrase "Internal Improvements" became a catchy political term that captured the attention of state and federal governments.

Responding to the impetus of the mood, the Virginia General Assembly created the Board of Public Works in 1816. This agency, with General Assembly approval, was authorized to purchase two-fifths of the common stock of any newly created Virginia transportation company. This included canals, turnpikes and eventually - railroads.

With that setting as a backdrop, it is not surprising that the progressive Walter Coles rose in the Pittsylvania Court that morning to submit a petition. Portions of the court record reads as follows:

"Upon the motion of Walter Coles and others who filed their petition praying that viewers may be appointed to view, survey, and report to this court, the most eligible route for a road from the Town of Danville to the Washington Iron Works in the County of Franklin and to unite this view with certain viewers appointed by the County Court of Franklin at the same term of said Court. The Court is in consideration of the petition and order of the Franklin Court aforesaid - - -"

Thus was born what is commonly called the "Franklin Turnpike" - which remains as one of Pittsylvania's most valuable roads to this day. Sufficient sale of common stock followed along the 93 mile route stretching from Danville to Fincastle in Botetourt County, to enable the General Assembly and the Board of Public Works to issue a charter to the Pittsylvania, Franklin and Botetourt Turnpike.

Members of the Board of Directors were proportioned among the various counties and towns along the route. Pittsylvania Courthouse was allotted eleven members of the thirty authorized. They included George Gilmer, Coleman Benneit, James Whittle, William Rison, Jeremiah Johnson, William Tunstall and others. Interestingly enough, an area called "Jabez Smith's Store" was allotted three members. This was Callands of course, where Smith operated a store. The three included Smith plus the politically powerful Vincent Witcher and the wealthy Captain James A. Mitchell -- all prominent county men.

Along the route lay several tobacco factories, some iron foundries, a shoe factory at the Village of Chestnut Grove (later renamed Whitmeil), Rocky Mount, and many villages including Swansonville and Callands.

The route was surveyed by the famous French engineer, Claudius Crozet, who saw to it that some of the following specifications were adhered to: Roadway width - 40'; Width of Carriageway - 18'-24' and number of toll gates - 6, at 15 mile intervals. Tolls were set at six cents per score of hogs; twenty cents per score of cattle; five cents for a horse or mule; fifteen cents for a four-wheel riding carriage and twelve cents per animal for a cart or wagon.

Latter day observers wrote that travel along the Franklin Pike was slow, being "dusty in the summer and miry in the winter." Moreover, travel was hampered by herds of turkeys, cattle, hogs and sheep on their way to market.

The turnpike had a checkered financial history. Its backers lost money, since it never paid a dividend throughout its twenty-five year history. However, by today's standards, the cost of construction seems miniscule. Records show that its cost of construction was only \$299 per mile.

The Franklin Turnpike as a toll road barely survived the Civil War - an event that must have caused havoc as far as upkeep and efficient operation were concerned. It was abandoned by its backers during the Reconstruction and then taken over by the various counties along the route between 1876 and 1880.

Its failure as a financial institution notwithstanding, who is to say that it should never have been built? Its contributions to the economic development of Pittsylvania County are immeasurable.

*Exitas Acta Probat!!!! - Franklin Pike*

**Editor's note:** The above is excerpted from his book *Picks, Tracks and Bateaux: Industry in Pittsylvania County 1750-1950*.

#### FOOTNOTE

Toll roads were frequently unpopular with farmers who lived along their routes because of the limitations on individual freedom they brought. Some were willing to resist the collection of tolls with violent means if necessary. One gatekeeper on an antebellum Virginia toll road between Harrisonburg and Staunton found the following note posted at his tollgate when he reported to work one morning:

#### "NOTICE TO GATEKEEPER

We ast you not to collect no more tole, you must NOT collect one cent. if you do we are Going to Destroy your House with fire are Denimite. So you must Not collect any more tole at all. We don't want to do this but we want a free road and are agoing to have it, if we have to kill and burn up everything. Collect no more tole. we mean what we say, so Fair warning to you."

#### NOTICE TO ALL READERS

To join the Society or to pay your dues, write Jeanette Brown, Membership Secretary, Box 8K6, Chatham, Va. 24531 or call 1-804-432-2607..

# November 1995 Queries

(Free to members to aid others with similar interests.)

Dear Mrs. Brown,

I am enclosing \$10 to start my membership in the Historical Society. I recently visited the Chatham area to do family research and found everyone in the area extremely friendly and helpful.

If you know of anyone researching the following families, please give them my name, address and telephone number: PARKER, RIGNEY, LINTHICUM, BARKER, BENNETT, ATKINS. Richard BRADLEY, 1353 Pine Street, Pittsburg, PA 94565. Tele. 1-510-439-8620.

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Enclosed is a check for \$10 for membership in the Pittsylvania Historical Society. My query is: Seeking info. on the father and sons of Joel ATKINS who married Sarah STANDLY in 1800 in Pittsylvania. Will pay for postage and copies. Thanks. Nell ATKINS, PS Your bulletin is most interesting.

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Seeking information on William SMITH Sr. of Pitts. Co. at least from 1770 til 1776 when Henry Co. was formed. Tax lists show land on Peters Russell's Creeks in what is now Patrick Co. (then Pitts.). Seek info. on his wife, Hannah (surname unknown) Wm. d. in Patrick ca. 1815 w/ten children (his inheritors of land, money, belongings and slaves). Interested in Mumford SMITH, William SMITH Jr., John SMITH, Henry SMITH, and Nathaniel SMITH. If any of these names or places sound familiar for late 1770s and early 10s please write: Debby HISEY, Box 182, Creswell, Ore. 97426.

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Who was the wife of Patrick FITZGERALD who bought land from William BYRD 15 May, 1760 on north side of Dan River in Halifax Co.,? Patrick died before 1783. Mrs. Claudine TERRY, 118 Dallam, Dumas, TX. 72029.

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Seeking in. on William WHITEHURST who m. Mary Ann TANNER (of Matthew Tanner Jr. in 1800. Have no info. on parentage or birthplace. Write: Anna WHITE 3206 Birchmeade Dr., Ellicott City, MD. 21042.

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Am searching for info. on Capt. David LANIER (b. in 1754). He married Mary HICKS and their .. m. Leroy SHELTON in Pittsylvania County. The SHELTONS are my g-g-grandparents. Have info. stating that David LANIER was grandson of Sampson LANIER, but don't know who his parents were. Hope there are some cousins who can help me. Judith D. TAKABA, 942 Makamua Place, Pearl City, HI 96782.

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The COLEMANS on my family tree were destined to fall in love with ROBERTSON lads and lasses. I am eager to hear from anyone researching these COLEMANS, all five siblings of each other (their parents were William COLEMAN and Chloe McDaniel) and all of whom were married in Pittsylvania County: Daniel S. COLEMAN, m. Sept. 6, 1809 Nancy ROBERTSON and had children Ann S. b. 1827, Spilsby, b. 1828 and Bartlett T., b. 1829, Patsey S. COLEMAN, who m. 24 Jan. 1811 James B. ROBERTSON; Stephen C. COLEMAN who m. 7 Nov. 1916, Susannah ROBERTSON and had children: Stephen Jr. b. 1834 and James, b. 1838; Elizabeth, b. 1827 and George III b. 1828 and Joel COLEMAN who m. 21 July 1824 Mildred ROBERTSON. Were all these ROBERTSONS related to each other? Linda Van BUREN, 43 Eardley Crescent, London, SW5 9JY, United Kingdom.

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## (QUERIES -- CONTINUED)

The surnames I am researching are: **HOLLANDSWORTH/HOLLENSWORTH, CRADDOCK, SMALLMAN, HALE, PURDY, HARRIS, DODSON, COX, MAYZE/MAZE, KEARON, ARNOLD AND HILL.** I am enclosing check for \$10 to cover membership fee for one year. Anna M. MOORE, 5209 SW 32nd Terrace, Topka, KS 66614-4014.

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Recently visited Chatham to search for my family connections. Ancestors who may have lived in Pittsylvania were Aaron CRAIN or CRANE and his wife Frances. Aaron CRAIN's father was James and his mother was Susanna. Ray CRAIN, 801 Paco Road, Victoria, TX 77904.

*Editor's Note: Had an opportunity to meet the personable Mr. CRAIN during his visit. He left very interesting history of some of the CRAIN/CRANE family who moved west. Am sorry it was too lengthy to publish here. This is information of much interest to related families of WRIGHT, MCQUITTY, BOYCE, ASH, DUFFER and AYRES. Mr. CRAIN deserves a hand. Help him out by sharing family...*

\*\*\*\*\*

Need names of parents of Joseph and Samuel ADAMS b. where? 1772. Married 14/08/1792, Rotetourt Co., VA. Elizabeth SEAGRAVES, b. 1773, where? of Samuel and Mary SEAGRAVES of same county. Joseph and three of their six children died May/June 1810 in Missouri Territory. Elizabeth's estate probated 1812 in Pitts. Co., VA. Thank you. Lt. Col. (USA-Ret.) Gordon S. ADAMS, 1256 Balboa Court, Apt. 4 Sunnyvale, 94086-5656 (415-961-4109).

*Editor's note: See related story re. Col. ADAMS family search elsewhere in this issue.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Searching for any information about Thomas POE who m. Elizabeth (unknown) POE father of Jeremiah Thomas POE, who was one of the first teachers in Grayson Co. Born in Pittsylvania Co. Max D. SMITH, 905 West Sixth St., Welasco, TX 78596. (210)-968-7904.

\*\*\*\*\*

I am researching the PAYNES, specifically William PAYNE, b. ca. 1770 d. 1855/58 m. Mary P. GREGORY? Children: John S., Reuben B., Mary P. (Mrs. William ROBERTSON) William G. (Nancy PICKERALD), Catherine (Mrs. A.B. SHELTON), Parthenia C. (Mrs. John A. PAYNE) Libertha Nancy, Elizabeth M. (Mrs Joseph David MEADOR) b. ca. 1810 m. 5 Nov., 1829. Associated names for me are BENNETT and DRAKE. Jane Drake BRODY, 6244 N. Campbell, Chicago, IL 60659. 312-973-1513.

\*\*\*\*\*

Enclosed is my check for renewal of membership in Pittsylvania Historical Society. It is one of my favorite publications, and I really look forward to its arrival. Am seeking info. on Nicholas DILLARD who married Martha DOSS (widow) 29 Sept. 1822 They were still in Pitts. Co. as of 1850 Census, listing his occupation as teacher. Was Edward Joel Dillard their son? Everything seems to fit this conclusion, but I would like to prove this relationship. Write to Marge DILLARD, 150 Clearback Road, Front Royal, VA 22630.

\*\*\*\*\*

Would like to correspond with anyone doing research on the LUMPKIN family. Trying to determine the parents of Robert A. LUMPKIN, b. Dec. 19, 1823 in SC, moved to Georgia and married Frances W. NEAL on Oct. 29, 1848 in Cass/Burton Co. GA. Then moved to DeKalb Co. AL. Write Judy Lumpkin GRIFFIN, 2306 Maplecrest Dr., Missouri City, TX 77459.

\*\*\*\*\*

### SCRAPS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Society member James W. Faucette of 2405 Old N.C. Hwy 10 Hillsborough, NC sent this unique tribute to former Packet Editor, Preston Moses, in the form of an acrostic. If you are like the Editor, who did not know what an acrostic is, try reading in both horizontal and vertical directions.

#### ACROSTIC FOR PRESTON

Preserving the historic acts  
 Reaching back to years gone by  
 Entering interesting facts  
 So we may know where, when and why,  
 Trusted by all his fellow men  
 Of Chatham and the country wide  
 Never fail their trust, and then  
 Made sure that honesty applied.  
 Often going the extra mile  
 Supplying each publisher's need  
 Each Packet issue well worthwhile  
 Shows Preston is special indeed

Thanks Jim. The Packet concurs.

### MORE GOOD TIPS FROM BETTY BRUNO

She noticed in another genealogical publication that the WWII Anniversary Medal is now available to all veterans. You Vets have but to write your Congressman c/o the Sam Rayburn Building, Washington, DC 20515. Request should include your service serial number, dates of service and Social Security number. Thanks, Cousin Betty.

### IF YOU WILL READ CAREFULLY

There are two articles in this issue of *The Packet* that may complement each other coincidentally. The article "Pittsylvania's Hallowed Ground" notes that the site of the grave of Thomas Jones, a Revolutionary War soldier, was not definitely known when the county celebrated the Bicentennial of the Revolution in 1976. Now, Frances Farmer, of 4112 Walnut Grove Av., Rosemead, CA 91779-1309, the guest writer for the new *Packet* column, "Pittsylvania Remembrances" in this issue, writes about visiting what she called the Thomas Sr. and Emanuel Jones Cemetery just off County Road 899. Does this mean that the missing grave is there? Or is this a different Thomas?

### THE PEYTONSBURG EXPLOSION?

Frances had more interesting observations to make. She noted that Hugh McCormick, the speaker at the August meeting, is the grandson of Abner Taylor Farmer, who was killed in an explosion at a sawmill at Peytonsburg on January 28, 1868. Hugh's mother was Louise Taylor Farmer. We see a good story here from Frances for a future issue of *The Packet*.

HEM

## GLEANINGS FROM OUR READERS

I really enjoy reading *The Packet*. It is both informative and entertaining. Enclosed is my check for \$10 to cover coming year's dues. My late mother's families: **MAYHEW, KENDRICK, JEFFERSON AND GIBSON** were from Pittsylvania Co. and when I see their names mentioned, I feel a sense of home. Thank you. Chris **HARDY**, Hopewell, VA 23860.

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Dear Mrs. **BROWN**,

Please find enclosed check for a renewal of membership. I enjoy *The Packet* very much and am sorry to see Mr. **MOSES**, President and Editor, retire. He has done an outstanding job. Many thanks for his efforts and your dedication also. Edna Motley **BILLIPS**, Nashville, TN 37215.

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Dear Jeanette,

*The Packet* is wonderful. It is one of the only historical newsletters or magazines that gives other information on nearby counties. Most of the ones I receive only give information on their county. Thank you for a wonderful service to people who are more than 3,000 miles away and are trying to do research. You provide new ideas and publications that might help me find that **SMITH** ancestor. Debby **HISEY**, P.O. Box 182, Cresswell, OR 97426.

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Dear Herman,

Thanks for your reply in re. to cemetery books in Pitts. Co. I have passed along the ... you sent to my Bays 4th cousin, Sue **KOTTIWITZ**, as it was for her I was trying to find this data. She's also a member of the Historical Society and is going to be at the Callands Festival in October exhibiting her jewelry and hopefully selling some. My past experience with the Society has been nothing but positive especially because of Preston's generous responses to my queries, etc. I look forward to more of the same in the future given the nature of your reply. Wish you good luck in your tenure and please give my regards to your wife. -- I bought two copies of her novel. Barbara **KEYNETTE**, 1142 Judson, Evanston, IL 60202-1315.

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THE PACKET is the quarterly publication of the Pittsylvania Historical Society for members and those who are interested in the history of their families and the area in which they lived.

### PITTSYLVANIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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